

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 9 are in the application.

With respect to the rejection of claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, the Examiner will note that the term "only insignificantly" has been deleted from the claim.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Matveev taken with Morgoil Bearings, are respectfully requested.

As a result of the foregoing amendment, claims 1 and 9 have been amended to set forth the fact that the rolls are configured such that the axial displacement thereof takes place under load. Support for this amendment can be found in the second full paragraph on page 3 of the specification. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Applicants respectfully submit that the references relied on by the Examiner do not disclose or suggest a roll stand as it is now set forth in the application. Specifically, the references do not show roll stands in which the axial displacement of the rolls takes place under load.

For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1 to 9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mercer et al. in view of Salter, Jr., should also be withdrawn.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with the application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

FK

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on December 17, 2002

By: *FK*
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Date: December 17, 2002

Marked-up Version of Amended Claims 1 and 9

1. (Amended) Roll stand for hot-rolling or cold-rolling rolled strips of different materials, including work rolls, back-up rolls and, optionally, intermediate rolls arranged in pairs, wherein the rolls (6) of at least one pair of rolls are axially displaceable under load toward both sides and have a contour suitable for compensating rolling defects, wherein each displaceable roll (6) has at least one hydrodynamic oil film bearing (3) into which is integrated a hydraulic unit (17) which effects the axial displacement.

9. Roll stand for hot-rolling or cold-rolling rolled strips of different materials, including work rolls, back-up rolls and, optionally, intermediate rolls arranged in pairs, wherein the rolls of at least one pair of rolls are axially displaceable under load toward both sides and have a contour suitable for compensating rolling defects, wherein each displaceable roll has at least one hydrodynamic oil film bearing into which is integrated a hydraulic unit which effects the axial displacement, wherein the hydraulic unit has a diameter which is [only insignificantly] greater than a diameter of a bearing shell of the hydrodynamic oil film bearing, and wherein the hydraulic unit has an annular cylinder connected to the roll stand, wherein an annular piston with an integrated ring connected to the roll is sealingly guided in the annular cylinder.